(c) Rs. 85.00 lakhs for two projects as Central Financial assistance is proposed by the Govt. of National Capital Territory of Delhi for 1996-97 :

1. Flood lighting of Parliament House, North and South Block, Rajpath and India Gate.

2. Tourist Complex at Nandprayag.

(d) The importance of promotion of tourism to attract National/International tourists is well recognised by the Government, and is a continuous, concerted and on-going activity, of the Government.

[English]

Losses by AI

3074. SHRI RUPCHAND PAL: Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the losses incurred by Air India on account of leasing of aircraft;

(b) whether any enquiry/investigation has been ordered into the same;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the proposed follow up action against those who have been responsible for the loss?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C. M. IBRAHIM) : (a) Losses incurred by Air India on operations (passenger) undertaken with aircraft taken on wet lease are:

(Rs. in crores)

1995-96 (Provisional)	1996-97 (Estimated) (Upto September '96)
96.54	88.75

These losses were incurred on account of the strategy of growth and expansion of Air India's operations and disruptions due to industrial unrest.

(b) to (d) Allegation of kickbacks in the wet leasing agreements is under verification of Central Bureau of Investigation.

Residential Units in Almora

3075. DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government had acquired the land in Almora during 1984 for the construction of residential units for postal employees;

(b) if so, the details thereof alongwith the number of house constructed so far/proposed to be constructed therein;

(c) the time by which the remaining houses are likely to be constructed; and

(d) the financial allocation made during each of the last three years for the purpose and the proposed allocation for the year 1997-98?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Land measuring 8556.69 sq. metres was acquired by the Department at Thapalia (Almora) in 1984 for the construction of 46 Nos. of staff quarters. So far 6 Nos. type-II staff quarters have been constructed.

(c) Construction of the remaining staff quarters would depend upon the availability of funds.

(d) Following funds were allocated for this purpose in the last three years:

1994-95	Rs. 1.50 lakh
1995-96	Rs. 6.11 lakh
1996-97	Rs. 1.00 lakh

The allocation of funds for the years 1997-98 is yet to be finalized.

[Translation]

Small Charter Aeroplanes Service in Rajasthan

3076. SHRI BHERU LAL MEENA : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to introduce small charter aeroplane services in Rajasthan;

(b) if so, the cities proposed to be covered under the said service; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (c) Indian Airlines has no plans to introduce Small Charter aeroplane service in Rajasthan Golden Hill Aviation and Rajputana Aviation Academy, however, have the proposal to provide charter services in Rajasthan. The cities proposed to be covered under this scheme will depend upon the requirements of charterers.

Labour Commission

3077. DR. LAXMINARAYAN PANDEY : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to set up a 'Labour Commission' in the perspective of new economic policies;

(b) the date on which this Commission was constituted in the past;

(c) whether a proposal for constituting a second Labour Commission has already been sent to the Cabinet; and

(d) if so, the time by which it is likely to be set up?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) to (d) The first National Commission on Labour was constituted under the Government of India Resolution dated 24.12.1966 and the report was submitted in August, 1969. Government has not taken the final decision on constituting the Second Labour Commission.

Proposal to open Casino in Khajuraho

3078. SHRI SATYA DEO SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of TOURISM be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government propose to open 'Casino' in Khajuraho on the pattern of Nepal and Singapore to attract foreign tourists;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Government have received any representations against opening of Casino; and

(d) if so, the action taken by the Union Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PARLIAMENTARY AFFAIRS AND MINISTER OF TOURISM (SHRI SRIKANTA JENA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) to (d) Do not arise.

[English]

Air India Fares in Gulf Sector

3079. PROF. P.J. KURIEN : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the fare charged by the Air India in the Gulf sector is more than its charges for equal distance in other sectors;

(b) if so, the details of the fares being charged by Air India in different sectors;

(c) whether there have been demands from the Gulf sector to reduce the fare and bring it down to the level of fares in other sectors; and

(d) if so, the decision taken thereon?

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION AND MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI C.M. IBRAHIM) : (a) to (d) It is not possible to compare fares on different sectors because of the difference in the cost of operations, traffic flow, availability of capacity, competition element etc. Based on these criteria, the existing fares on Gulf sectors are considered reasonable.

Increase in Criminal Activities in Trains

3080. SHRI MURALIDHAR JENA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to refer to the reply given to Unstarred Question No. 2067 dated December 5, 1996 and state:

(a) whether the criminal activities are on increase now-a-days in Orissa, New Delhi bound trains due to slackness of the concerned personnels; and

(b) if so, the details thereof, train-wise during 1995-96 and 1996-97?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) and (b) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the Sabha.

Setting up of IRCC

3081. SHRI BASUDEB ACHARIA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have since taken any decision to shelve the plan for setting up the Indian Railway Catering Corporation (IRCC);

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) Processing of the proposal has been taken up in consultation with concerned Ministries/Departments.

Air Services at Tuticorin, Salem and Pondicherry

3082. SHRI N. DENNIS : Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government propose to operate air services through the already constructed airports at places like Tuticorin, Salem and Pondicherry; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?